

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1 and 3-11 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claim 12 as follows:

Claims 1-11 (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ In a refrigerating system having a housing wherein carbon dioxide gas serving as a refrigerant is filled at a pressure of 4-12 MPa, a method for establishing a fluid seal between a said housing containing a high pressure gas and a shaft rotating relative to said housing, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a lip-type seal having an annular sealing lip made from a ~~highly gas barrier~~, non-elastomeric, polymer material ~~having a rigidity and, said polymer material being a gas barrier material impervious to carbon dioxide gas at said pressure of 4-12 MPa and~~ having a gas permeability coefficient of less than 1.0×10^{-13} (cm³·cm/cm²·sec·Pa) for carbon dioxide gas ~~under~~ at a pressure of 4 MPa;

lining the inner circumferential face of said sealing lip with a low friction lining;

installing said lip-type seal between said shaft and said housing in such a manner that only said low friction lining is

brought into contact with said shaft; and,

applying a carbon dioxide gas pressure ~~higher than about~~
~~3 of 4-12~~ MPa to the fluid side of said seal as said shaft and said housing are rotated relative to each other to thereby cause said sealing lip to resiliently undergo elastic deformation to cause said low friction lining to resiliently follow any shaft run-out under the action of high pressure gas, while substantially preventing permeation of gas by the ~~highly~~ gas barrier nature of said sealing lip.

13. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 12, wherein said sealing lip causes the low friction lining into tight contact with the outer periphery of the shaft under the action of high pressure gas to thereby establish a static seal.

14. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 12, wherein said sealing lip is made of polyamide.

15. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 12, wherein said sealing lip is made of a polymer material selected from the group consisting of polyvinylidene fluoride, polyvinyl chloride, polychlorotrifluoroethylene, and polyvinyl alcohol.

16. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 12, wherein said low friction lining is made of polytetrafluoroethylene.